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The poem is in the form of a monologue addressed to the Caucasian intruder by a Pueblo Indian of the Southwest, most probably an inhabitant of the pueblo of Zuñi; but the author leaves us in some doubt as to the exact home of her hero. The poetic execution is of a superior character and shows the work of a skillful hand. The scientific exactness of the composition is vouched for by the well-known "Zuñi Familiar," Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing, who appends to Miss Proctor's poem an interesting "Commentary," in which we find only words of approval. Many allusions in the poem, not familiar to the general reader, are explained in the notes by Mr. John Fiske.

Scarcely less to be praised than the rhyme of the poet is the page of the artist, the famous battle-scene and portrait painter, Mr. Julian Scott, who has embellished this beautiful publication with eleven full-page aquatints. Previous to undertaking this work Mr. Scott spent two seasons in New Mexico and Arizona studying the peculiar landscape and atmospheric effects of this region, as well as the dress, figures, faces, and surroundings of "The Ancient People" themselves. His faithful illustrations are the result of these studies.

The publishers have done their share to make the book attractive. Paper, typography, and binding are all in excellent taste, and represent the best work of the Riverside Press.

W. MATTHEWS.

Finger Prints. By Francis Galton, F. R. S., etc. London, Macmillan & Co., 1892.

The old legal maxim "*De minimis non curat lex*" has no application in science. There is nothing too minute to escape examination, description, and classification. Mr. Galton, with his characteristic industry, accuracy, and power of marshalling facts, has now published the results of his observations, extending over several years, upon those curiously curved minute furrows found upon the palmar surface of the ends of the fingers.

It has been long supposed that different individuals were characterized by special patterns of these markings, indeed they have occasionally been used for purposes of identification. Mr. Galton has put the matter to the proof of experiment and finds that when

two finger prints are alike in their minutiae the chance against their being made by two different persons is as 1 to 64,000,000,000. When the prints of two different fingers of one person agree with two of another person this inconceivable number is squared, with three fingers, cubed, &c. As these patterns are practically unchanged from infancy until old age or even after death, it will be seen that we possess here a means of identification far exceeding any other now known in evidential value.

A small and very simple roller is used to apply the ink for taking impressions, which for purposes of accurate comparison may be enlarged by photography. The different forms are susceptible of classification and arrangement, so that they may be quickly and conveniently compared.

Family resemblances are found to exist, the maternal influence being more powerful than the paternal. There appears to be no peculiar pattern characterizing any particular race and occupation; habit and mental characteristics have no ascertainable influence.

'The Ruined Cities of Mashonaland, being a Record of Excavation, and Exploration in 1891.' Longman, Green & Co. London and New York, 1892.

The name of J. Theodore Bent stands near the head of the list of living ethnologists. Though quite a young man, he has devoted many years to the study of ethnology, more especially on prehistoric and on classic grounds. His studies have not been at all confined to the library or laboratory. Accompanied by his wife, he has spent many seasons, first among the islands of the Greek archipelago in Asia Minor, "in rugged Cilicia," the entire year 1891 in southern Africa, 1892 in Abyssinia. Possessed of sufficient income not to be dependent for his living upon the rewards of his work, he has pursued his investigations and studies practically without compensation. His work has recommended itself to the scientific societies of England, of which the pioneer in this regard was the British Association for the Advancement of Science, but to which has been added the Royal Geographic Society, and, for his voyage into Mashonaland, the British Chartered Company for South Africa. Some or all of